

WELLFLEET IS GOING GREEN IN 2016!

Wellfleet voters approved a ban on single-use plastic shopping bags during the 2015 Annual Town Meeting in April. Wellfleet is now just weeks away from implementing the Plastic Shopping Bag Reduction Bylaw.

PLASTIC BAG BAN BYLAW

Effective January 1, 2016 the process of phasing out of single-use plastic shopping bags at-point-of-sale at Wellfleet retailers, markets, and restaurants will begin.

EXCEPTIONS

Plastic produce bags, bakery bread bags, and deli counter baggies, will not be affected by the ban.

PLASTIC BAG ALTERNATIVES

Paper bags and Reusable bags such as cotton, fiber or plastic at least 3.5 mils thick. If you do purchase produce bags for your business, the least harmful option is made from starch and vegetable oil substances called Mater-Bi, sometimes sold under the name BioBags.

HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE PLASTIC BAG BAN BYLAW?

The goal is for the customer to bring reusable bags, so the Wellfleet Recycling Committee suggests the following best practices to reach that goal:

- 1) Ask your customers ***“Do you need a bag?”***
- 2) Offer reusable bags for sale, consider printing your logo or “Keep Wellfleet Green” on the bag.
- 3) Consider offering an incentive to customers who bring their own bags, such as a discount which could be used to help a local charity/non-profit (see getmyeco.com), or a punch card discount for customer loyalty, or a small credit per bag for a limited period.
- 4) Offer cardboard boxes, donated paper bags, and as a last resort, new paper bags.
- 5) Ask your suppliers for the most environmentally-friendly options, such as 100% recycled paper bags.

WHAT TO DO WITH EXISTING PLASTIC BAG INVENTORY?

Any unused plastic bags that remain after January 1, 2016 should be taken to the Wellfleet Transfer Station for reuse or recycling.

WHO ELSE HAS A PLASTIC BAG BAN ON THE CAPE?

Barnstable, Falmouth, Harwich, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet.

MORE INFORMATION & GREEN RESOURCES?

Additional information about the Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw is available online under the Bylaws and Regulations tab on the Town’s home page at www.wellfleet-ma.gov or call Town Hall at 508 349 0300. To further promote your business as green, go to the Community Development Partnership to learn about the “Cape and Islands Green” certification program.

